



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 26 August 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Palm Beach Post reports that over one million people in three South Florida counties were without power Thursday night due to Hurricane Katrina. (See item [1](#))
- The Associated Press reports Hawaii will begin enforcing a cap on the wholesale price of gasoline next week, hoping to restrict the price of the nation's highest gas costs. (See item [3](#))
- The Yuma Sun reports local, state, and federal authorities in Mexico are working together to coordinate new "surprise" checkpoints at highway exits that lead in and out of the border city of San Luis Rio Colorado, to increase security in tourist areas. (See item [13](#))
- The Department of Homeland Security has announced the First Responder Partnership Initiative to coordinate first responders in the National Capital Region, and serve as a model to enhance cooperation and efficiency between state and local first responders and their federal counterparts. (See item [29](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

August 26, Palm Beach Post — **1.08 million businesses, homes without power.** Hurricane Katrina knocked out power to more than 1 million homes and businesses in three South Florida counties Thursday, August 25. Officials at Florida Power & Light Co. (FPL) warned more was to come, and that outages could last for five to seven days—or even longer. In Miami–Dade County 525,000 homes and businesses had lost power as of 9 p.m., FPL spokesman Tom Veenstra said. In Broward, 477,000 homes and businesses lost electricity as of 9 p.m., Veenstra said, making a total of 1,078,000. FPL has a crew of about 11,700 people prepared to restore power, about 4,100 of whom have either arrived or are coming in from out of state, said Geisha Williams, FPL's vice president for distribution.

Source: http://www.palmbeachpost.com/storm/content/local_news/epaper/2005/08/26/m1a_fplpower_0826.html

2. *August 25, Associated Press* — **Threats, gunshots reported by survey crews for power line.**

Verbal threats and gunshots have targeted surveyors in Marathon County, WI, preparing for construction of a high–voltage power line across northwestern Wisconsin, authorities say. Sheriff's reports say a man on an all–terrain vehicle approached the workers on Marathon County Highway P just before 4 p.m. Tuesday, August 23, and fired four shots in the air. The incident remained under investigation. Sheriff's Lt. Dale Wisnewski said Wednesday, August 24, that authorities also have received reports of power line opponents verbally threatening crews surveying land for the project. Wisconsin Public Service, the project's main contractor, hired a private security company to have guards accompany crews building the 345,000–volt power line from Rothschild, WI, to Duluth, MN. The power line has been opposed for years by environmental advocates concerned about its impact on the northwoods region.

Source: <http://www.gazetteextra.com/powerline082505.asp>

3. *August 25, Associated Press* — **Hawaii to impose nation's first gasoline price caps.** Hawaii will begin enforcing a cap on the wholesale price of gasoline next week, hoping to curb the sting of the nation's highest gas costs. The limit would be the first time a state has capped the price of gasoline — a move critics warn could lead to supply shortages. The state Public Utilities Commission said the initial price ceiling is due to take effect September 1. The ceilings will be in effect through September 4. The following week, the commission will announce a new set of caps. The 2004 law passed by the Legislature that authorized the caps was intended to force Hawaii's two refiners, Chevron Corp. and Tesoro Corp., to set their wholesale prices closer to mainland rates. Governor Linda Lingle, who unsuccessfully sought repeal of the 2004 law, has said she worries the cap will actually increase prices and create fuel shortages. The governor has the power to suspend the price caps if she determines they would cause a major adverse impact on the economy, public order, or the health, welfare or safety of the people of Hawaii.

Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0825GasPricesHawaii25-ON.html>

4. *August 25, Knight–Ridder Tribune* — **Downed transmission line leaves California homes without power.** About 400,000 customers of the utility Southern California Edison lost power for an hour Thursday, August 25, after a major transmission line went down during peak afternoon hours. The problem line, coupled with temperatures soaring up to 14 degrees above normal, forced the California Independent System Operator (Cal–ISO) to declare a Stage 3 emergency shortly before 4 p.m. Cal–ISO, which controls 75 percent of the state's power grid, ordered Edison to start rolling blackouts in its territory to reduce the load on the system. That

triggered outages in parts of Irvine, Lake Forest, Huntington Beach, Costa Mesa, Cypress, Laguna Beach, Tustin, Aliso Viejo, Buena Park, La Palma, Laguna Hills, Fountain Valley, unincorporated Orange County and Cerritos, Edison spokesperson Paul Klein said. It was unclear late Thursday the status of the downed transmission line, and whether more rolling blackouts were possible for Friday, August 26, Edison said. "Not knowing what happened to line, it would be difficult to predict," Klein said. Electricity was restored to customers within an hour of the 4 p.m. outage. The down line took out 2,800 megawatts from the system.

Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/nation/12478584.htm>

5. *August 24, Denver Post* — **Gasoline shortages in Denver.** Motorists in Denver, CO—area found some local service stations out of gasoline Tuesday, August 23. Industry analysts said a series of temporary glitches — but no major or ongoing problems — may have caused the short supplies and outages. Valero Energy Corp., the owner of service station chain Diamond Shamrock, said the shortages stemmed from mechanical breakdowns at a gasoline terminal that supplies its Denver stations. A Valero spokesperson said the company hopes to have supplies back to normal by next week. For other service stations, the shortages might be caused by isolated transportation bottlenecks from wholesalers to retailers, said Stan Dempsey Jr., president of the Colorado Petroleum Association, which represents local refineries. Or the shortfalls might stem from retailers that intentionally purchased small supplies, hoping that prices would come down and they then could fill their storage tanks with less-expensive gasoline, analysts said. The Suncor refinery in Commerce City, Colorado's largest single source of gasoline, is running at full capacity and has left no customer stranded on an island of empty pumps, said Mike Ashar, executive vice president of Suncor USA. However, Shell Oil Co., which acquires some of its gasoline from Suncor, said its temporary shortage of regular stemmed from refinery supply disruptions.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/search/ci_2967319

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

6. *August 23, KCEN-TV (TX)* — **Chlorine leak closes downtown streets in Texas.** Just after 2 p.m. Tuesday, August 23, a chlorine cylinder began leaking at the Airgas facility at 11th and Clay in downtown Waco, TX. Firefighters say the leak was small, but several blocks were shut down as a result. Also, a daycare center behind the facility turned off their air conditioning for a while as a precaution. Chlorine can irritate eyes and skin, but firefighters say no one was hurt.

Source: <http://www.kcentv.com/news/c-article.php?cid=1&nid=7863>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

7. *August 25, New York Times* — **Visa seeks new ways to keep data secret.** Visa, like the other major credit card companies, has managed to reduce financial losses stemming from fraud, but it continues to struggle with preventing the theft of card data in the first place. Policing the payment chain is a Herculean task, because virtually every step is outsourced from the time a card is swiped to the time the monthly statement arrives. "There is definitely an implied responsibility from the merchant to the consumer, from the bank to the merchant and the card company for the oversight of the whole payment issue," said Robert J. McCullen, chief executive of auditing firm AmbironTrustWave. "Here at Visa, we started talking about how do you start securing data in an environment where we didn't have much control over merchants and third parties," said John Shaughnessy, a Visa senior vice president for fraud risk. As a result, Visa drafted new security rules and required all its merchants and processors to follow them by 2001. In 2003, Visa led a series of discussions to establish a set of security standards and a timetable for complying with them. Visa recently started holding seminars to educate small merchants and processors about its data protection policies.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/08/25/business/25visa.html>

8. *August 24, WXIA-TV (GA)* — **ATM fraud alert issued.** Atlanta police issued a fraud alert for ATM users after recovering a skimming device attached to a Wachovia ATM machine at a strip mall. One part of the device scans the account number when the card is put into the machine, while another part of the device is placed over the keypad to gather password information. "So they had all your information from your card and your pin number at which point they can go back home, download this information onto their computer, make their own debit cards, and go out and start using them," said Atlanta Police Sgt. Terry Joiner.

Source: <http://www.11alive.com/rss/article.aspx?storyid=68286>

[[Return to top](#)]

Transportation and Border Security Sector

9. *August 25, United Press International* — **France to publish airline blacklist.** The government will publish a "blacklist" next Monday, August 29, of airliners banned from entering French territory, the French transportation minister said Thursday, August 25. The list, announced by Minister Dominique Perben at a press conference, follows a string of airline crashes, including that of a Colombian craft this month carrying French tourists. The crash has prompted calls by French and other European politicians for an EU-wide blacklist of "junk" planes and companies that fail to meet international aviation standards, and for a toughening of those standards and inspections. Like the United States and Great Britain, France will also publish for travelers a list of those suspect companies, Perben said in a separate interview published in *Le Monde* Thursday. "We must start talking about the 'black sheep' of the profession," Perben told the newspaper, referring to the airline industry. The transportation minister is also pushing for a quality "blue label" for well performing airline companies — ideally debuting at the end of 2005 or early 2006.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/upi/?feed=TopNews&article=UPI-1-20050825-13432000-bc-france-airlines.xml>

August 25, Associated Press — **State fuel tax break should boost US Airways.** As US Airways prepares to emerge from bankruptcy, the airline has landed a lucrative state tax break on jet fuel. The North Carolina General Assembly gave final approval to a measure Wednesday, August 24, which will cap the total fuel taxes the airline would pay at \$2.5 million. The state has estimated the change will cost about \$5 million a year in lost tax revenue. State Sen. David Hoyle, D–Gaston, told The Charlotte Observer that US Airways had threatened to truck in its fuel from out of state unless the change was approved. US Airways has its largest hub at Charlotte–Douglas International Airport and the city is home to about 5,300 of the airline's 23,000 workers. The airline is close to completing a merger with America West Airlines that is expected to leave most Charlotte operations intact. However, it was unclear whether US Airways, based in Arlington, VA, could have followed through on the threat to buy fuel out of state. The Charlotte airport does not allow fuel trucks, and ferrying fuel in aboard aircraft is expensive.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-08-25-fuel-tax_x.htm

11. *August 25, Associated Press* — **ATA Airlines given more time to file Chapter 11 plan.** The bankruptcy court overseeing the Chapter 11 case of ATA Airlines extended the company's sole right to file a reorganization plan to September 30. An order issued Tuesday, August 23, by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Indianapolis also extended ATA's exclusive right to lobby creditors for support to November 30. Bankruptcy law requires companies operating under Chapter 11 to submit a plan outlining how creditors will be paid. The Indianapolis–based airline, owned by ATA Holdings Corp., filed for Chapter 11 protection in October 2004. Court papers filed by ATA said due to the size and complexity of its bankruptcy, the company hasn't had enough time to complete and file a Chapter 11 reorganization plan. ATA also said it's reviewing and analyzing the "multitude" of claims filed against its estate in the bankruptcy and is pursuing various financing alternatives. The official committee of unsecured creditors, which objected to the extension, said ATA's reasons for needing more time don't add up.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-08-24-ata-deadline_x.htm

12. *August 25, Department of Transportation* — **Grants to improve air service to small communities.** Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta on Thursday, August 25, announced grants totaling almost \$19 million that will help 68 small communities in 29 states improve their air services. The grants were awarded as part of the Small Community Air Service Development Program, which helps communities address the challenges of local air service, such as high fares and insufficient levels of service. The grants will go toward financial incentives to air carriers, studies to determine air service needs, and marketing programs that encourage communities to use commercial carriers offering local air service. All of the grant recipients have made financial commitments toward their grant projects and most recipients have teamed with the local business community to improve their air service. A total of 84 proposals were submitted by individual communities or groups of communities in 36 states this year seeking a total of almost \$51 million, with 37 proposals being selected for funding. Complete community proposals and the department's final order are available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>, docket number OST–2005–20127.

A list of recipient communities and funding totals is available on

<http://www.dot.gov/affairs/chart05.htm>

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot11405.htm>

13. *August 23, Yuma Sun (AZ)* — **Mexico casts crime net on border.** Local, state, and federal authorities in Mexico are working together to coordinate new "surprise" checkpoints at highway exits that lead in and out of the border city of San Luis Rio Colorado, the city's sub-police chief said. The checkpoints are part of a plan announced by Sonora Governor Eduardo Bours and Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano to increase security in tourist areas. Jesus Zamora, the city's sub-police chief, said the new operation hopes to weed out "coyotes," or human traffickers, along with drug traffickers, stolen vehicles and other criminals as they pass through the route that connects Baja California with the interior of Mexico. Zamora said trafficking humans and drugs has been increasing in San Luis Rio Colorado as Mexican authorities have bolstered security along the California-Baja California border. For the new checkpoints, the city's police are working in conjunction with the Mexican Attorney General's office, a national immigration agency and the Agencia Federal Investigacion, or AFI, which is Mexico's equivalent of the FBI. Michael Gramley, spokesperson for the U.S. Border Patrol's Yuma sector, said the Border Patrol values any assistance that the Mexican government is willing to give concerning prosecution of alien and narcotic smugglers.
Source: http://sun.yumasun.com/artman/publish/articles/story_18654.p hp

[[Return to top](#)]

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

Agriculture Sector

14. *August 25, Agricultural Research Service* — **Unlocking secrets of pseudomonad bacteria.** Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists and their colleagues are exploring the genetic makeup of selected pseudomonads to unlock the secrets behind the microbes' success in helping — or hindering — green plants. Knowing more about the genes may speed the researchers' efforts to boost the effectiveness of the beneficial microbes and to counteract the destructiveness of the harmful ones. ARS plant pathologist Joyce E. Loper would like to see beneficial pseudomonads used widely by organic and conventional growers alike as an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional pesticides. Loper collaborated in detective work to decipher the DNA of a pseudomonad known as *Pseudomonas syringae* pathovar *syringae* B7228a. This microbe causes brown spot, a disease that can kill bean plants. The researchers compared and contrasted this microbe's genes to those of another pseudomonad, *P. syringae* pathovar tomato DC3000. As its name implies, this microbe attacks tomatoes, among other plants, causing a disease known as bacterial speck. The research has identified genes that may be responsible for the pathogens' differing abilities to survive and spread.
Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>

15. *August 25, News-Press (FL)* — **Citrus growers fear more storms could spread canker.** With another possible hurricane heading toward Florida, citrus growers are anxious. Canker is spread mostly by wind and rain such as those found in hurricanes and tropical storms. State officials and citrus groves have been fighting canker for years, but last year's record hurricane

season spread the contagious bacterial disease to previously uninfected regions. Statewide, citrus canker costs the citrus industry about two million dollars per year, said Casey Pace, spokesperson for the citrus trade group Florida Citrus Mutual. Left unchecked, canker could spread and cost the industry \$342 million per year, Pace said. For that reason, the disease is considered a serious threat to Florida's \$9 billion citrus industry. It leads to blemished fruit, weakened trees, and premature fruit drop. To stop the spread, state agricultural officials have removed more than 2.4 million commercial trees and 650,000 residential trees throughout Florida since 1995. Southwest Florida was doing fine a year and a half ago, said Ron Hamel, of the Gulf Citrus Growers Association, which represents 135 growers in five Florida counties. Then Charley and the other hurricanes happened. Since then, canker has appeared in groves in Hendry County and elsewhere, Hamel said. "They were finding canker in places it wasn't before," Hamel said.

Source: <http://www.news-press.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050825/NEWS0105/50825001/1075>

16. *August 24, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **Georgia officials expect soybean rust in all state fields.** Twelve Georgia counties now have soybean rust, with the addition of finds in a Pioneer sentinel plot on a research farm in Grady County and in state sentinel plots in Clarke County. State officials say growers across the state should assume that "in all likelihood their crop will be infested to some degree by soybean rust this season." The threat of Tropical Storm Katrina over the weekend could bring wind and rain to parts of Georgia, creating near ideal conditions for development of rust, said Bob Kemerait, Extension specialist, University of Georgia. Clarke County now becomes the farthest north soybean rust has been found in Georgia this year. He notes that Clarke also was the farthest north rust was found in Georgia in 2004. Grady County is just east of Seminole and Decatur counties (already infected) in southwest Georgia.
Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=518>

17. *August 24, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **Additional funds to fight emerald ash borer in Ohio.** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Mike Johanns Wednesday, August 24, announced an additional \$1.85 million in funding for the state of Ohio's emerald ash borer (EAB) eradication program. Tree removal is currently the only means to eradicate EAB. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Ohio Department of Agriculture will use the funding for tree removal at the North Baltimore site. Since 2003, APHIS has provided more than \$17 million to Ohio for its EAB eradication program. President Bush's fiscal year 2006 budget proposal provides \$32.6 million for EAB eradication efforts in affected states, a \$27.6 million increase over the 2005 appropriations level. EAB is an invasive species of wood boring beetles that targets ash trees in North America. It was first detected in July 2002 in southeastern Michigan and has since been found in Ohio, Indiana, Maryland, and Virginia. The pest is native to China and eastern Asia. EAB larvae feed in the phloem and outer sapwood of ash trees eventually killing entire trees. In Ohio, APHIS and the Ohio Department of Agriculture have removed more than 236,000 ash trees to stop the spread of the pest.
Multistate emerald ash borer Website: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>
Source: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB/.cmd/a/d/ar/sa.retrievecontent/c/6_2_1UH/ce/7_2_5JM/p/5_2_4TQ/d/1/th/J_2_9D/s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?PC_7_2_5JM_contentid=2005%2F08%2F0323.xml&PC_7_2_5JM_navtype=RT&PC_7_2_5JM_parentnav=LAT

18. *August 24, Reuters* — **Austria finds mad cow disease in Slovenian ox.** A case of mad cow disease has been found in Austria but there is no risk to consumers, the Austrian health ministry said on Wednesday, August 24. The ministry said the case of mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), was found in a Slovenian animal that had been brought to the southern city of Graz to be slaughtered. The ministry said consumers were not at risk because the animal's remains had been secured and would be incinerated. The health ministry said there had been five cases of BSE in Slovenia in recent years.

Source: http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2005-08-24T170206Z_01_MOL461286_RTRUKOC_0_UK-FOOD-BSE-AUSTRIA.xml

[[Return to top](#)]

Food Sector

19. *August 23, Food and Drug Administration* — **Cheese recalled.** Latin Food Group of Miami, FL, is recalling cases of its Queso Seco Cheese because it has the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Latin Food Group sold this product on a cash and carry basis in 40 lb. blocks to two unidentified distributors who are likely to have further distributed the product. This type of cheese is typically sold by weight in delis. It also may have been repackaged and sold under a private label. The contamination was detected in a 12 oz. package of cheese with an "El Puro" label which may have been provided to the distributor by Latin Food Group. There have been no reported illnesses that have been reported to date. The bacteria was discovered during a routine sampling of cheese by the Florida Department of Agriculture in a grocery store located in Palm Beach, FL.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/latinfoods08_22.html

[[Return to top](#)]

Water Sector

20. *August 25, Miami Herald (FL)* — **Florida water officials are leery of flooding.** Wednesday, August 24, Miami-Dade County, FL, water management officials hunkered over charts and computer screens showing the results of \$600 million spent to improve flood control since powerful storms in 1999 and 2000 left broad swaths of South Florida under water. Then they looked at the forecast for Katrina — and they couldn't help worrying that their best-laid plans won't be enough. In Broward County, which is bracing for a direct hit from Katrina, canals began draining and pumps churned into action early Wednesday. Since 2000, choking muck has been dredged from 400 miles of drainage canals in Miami-Dade. More than 60,000 storm drains have been installed or refitted to handle higher volumes of water, said Roman Gastesi, the county's water resources manager. Two massive pumps have been installed near Miami International Airport to draw floodwater away from the problem areas in the western part of the

county. A pair of massive basins — 450 acres each — opened in 2003, and can hold 1.2 billion gallons of rain and runoff. But for all that, any storm that drops more than six or seven inches in a single day could still overwhelm the system, officials warned.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/12470133.htm>

21. *August 25, Arizona Republic* — Arizona bracing for legal battle over Colorado River water.

Arizona hopes to create a \$1.5 million legal defense fund to protect its Colorado River allocation in case a dispute among neighboring states turns into a water war. A worst-case loss in court could force the state to give up half of the water that flows through the Central Arizona Project canal and leave it in reservoirs to benefit upstream users or satisfy a treaty with Mexico. Representatives from all seven Colorado River states were scheduled to meet Thursday, August 25, in San Diego, CA, to consider a plan that might solve some of the issues without legal action. The states hope to submit their proposals to Interior Secretary Gale Norton next week as part of a larger effort to create a long-term drought plan for the Colorado. Drought and growth have pushed the river past its limits and renewed tensions among the states that rely on the river's water. Without a workable plan, "litigation is inevitable at some point," said Herb Guenther, director of Arizona's Department of Water Resources. Guenther's agency has come up with the first \$200,000 for the defense fund. A fund-raising committee will seek donations from others with a stake in the river, including cities and homebuilders.

Source: http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/breaking/082505cap_water.php

[[Return to top](#)]

Public Health Sector

22. *August 25, New Scientist* — European Union officials discuss emerging bird flu threat.

Chief veterinary officials from the European Union's 25 member states met on Thursday, August 25, to discuss what to do if wild birds carrying H5N1 bird flu bring it to Europe from Russia. But they concluded it is not clear whether wild birds are spreading the virus in Russia, nor how likely it is that birds migrating into Europe could be carrying it. H5N1 bird flu has been identified in the Novosibirsk region of Russia. DNA sequence information from samples near Novosibirsk shows it is highly similar to the virus that killed thousands of wild birds at Qinghai Lake in China in May 2005. Russia has also reported outbreaks involving H5 bird flu in its Altai Kray, Tyuman, Omsk, Kurgan, and Cheyabinsk regions, which cover a band of territory parallel to the northern border of Kazakhstan. H5N1 flu has also been confirmed in Kazakhstan. It is not clear how similar any of these latter viruses are to the Qinghai H5N1 or others that have circulated in east Asia and caused 57 human deaths so far. But whether this spread is likely to continue into Europe depends on whether it is being carried by migrating birds, or if instead the virus is being spread by trade in infected poultry, as it has been in southeast Asia. And the infections reported so far do coincide geographically with major rail, trade, and travel links through the region.

Source: <http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=dn7905>

23. *August 25, Itar-Tass (Russia)* — Russian minister cautiously optimistic about bird flu situation. Russian Agriculture Minister Alexei Gordeyev said the spread of bird flu has been stopped. "We see the situation calming down and being localized at the present time," Gordeyev told a news conference on Wednesday, August 24. Noting that the infections came

with migrating birds from southeast and central Asia, the minister said "it was possible to achieve the main thing: prevent the disease from spreading to agri-businesses and poultry farms." In his view, however, it would be premature to celebrate the victory. The Altai territory confirmed the infection in eight settlements located in five districts. Bird flu is suspected in another four settlements. In the Tyumen region, bird flu was confirmed in seven settlements in three districts and on seven lakes. Authorities culled all the poultry in six settlements. In the Omsk region, the infection was reported in six settlements in five districts and on four lakes. Another 18 settlements in eight districts are expecting test results for final confirmation. Laboratory tests in the Kurgan region confirmed the disease in six districts and six settlements. Another 14 settlements in five districts are suspected bird flu contacts. In the Chelyabinsk region, three settlements suspected of contacting bird flu have been quarantined. The Novosibirsk region confirmed bird flu in 15 settlements and suspects it in another 37. Birds were culled in 11 Novosibirsk settlements.

Source: <http://www.tass.ru/eng/level2.html?NewsID=2348458&PageNum=0>

24. *August 25, Guardian (United Kingdom)* — **Acambis in patent infringement suit concerning smallpox vaccine.** Acambis is alleged to have held talks to license a rival's smallpox vaccine before withdrawing and using the trade secrets it had garnered to make its own version, according to a lawsuit filed against the British biotechnology company. The legal action from Bavarian Nordic claims that Acambis did not have its own version of a smallpox vaccine that can be used by the elderly and those with weak immune systems but "misappropriated" the Danish company's property to develop one. The Danes are seeking damages and want to stop Acambis selling the product. The wrangle comes at a crucial time as a deadline looms for the two rivals to bid for a \$1.9 billion contract to supply the vaccine to the U.S. government. The companies have already supplied the U.S. with normal smallpox vaccine but the U.S. now wants to buy products for the elderly and infirm.

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/story/0,3604,1555666,00.h tml>

25. *August 24, California Department of Health Services* — **California issues warning about plague in cats.** Following recent reports of four cases of plague in pet cats in Kern and Placer counties, Interim State Health Officer Howard Backer Wednesday, August 24, urged Californians to keep their cats away from wild rodents and to seek veterinary care if their cat becomes sick with symptoms of the disease. To date in 2005, plague activity has been detected in animals in 11 California counties: Alpine, Butte, Glenn, Kern, Lassen, Modoc, Monterey, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, and Sierra. "People who handle or have close contact with an infected cat risk getting plague," Backer said. Three of the cats were reported in Kern County and one in Placer County. One of the Kern County cats survived and the others were euthanized. Plague is a highly infectious bacterial disease that is spread by squirrels, chipmunks and other wild rodents and their fleas. Cats most commonly acquire plague through hunting and consuming infected wild rodents. Humans and cats can also get plague from the bites of infectious rodent fleas. State and local health officials regularly monitor for plague activity. In California, plague-infected animals are most likely to be found in the foothills, mountains and along the coast.

Plague information: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub_plague.htm

Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/oaklandtribune/localnews/ci_2971705

August 24, Reuters — **Congo: Ebola attack seemingly over.** Although the government has not publicly declared the Ebola hemorrhagic fever outbreak over, medical authorities in the Republic of Congo say they have the situation well under control. They said 10 people died in the April 2005 to July 2005 outbreak. Although confined to Cuvette–Ouest Department, one of the country's 11 administrative zones, the virus remained a constant threat, lurking in the recesses of the rainforest that provides it a natural habitat. At the end of the first outbreak in Cuvette–Ouest in April 2002, Ebola killed 42 of the 57 people who were recorded as having contracted the virus. During the second outbreak in 2002, it killed mostly gorillas. Health Ministry officials attribute the low human death toll of the April–June 2005 outbreak to effective public information campaigns on disease prevention, and the training of medical staff. Since May 26, there has not been a single recorded death — prompting the World Health Organization to declare the disease epidemiologically finished.

Ebola information: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs103/en/index.htm>

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/b14fc15928a44ff439cb657347a7877c.htm>

[[Return to top](#)]

Government Sector

27. *August 24, Department of Homeland Security* — Department of Homeland Security awards scholarships and fellowships to undergraduate and graduate researchers. The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Science and Technology directorate on Wednesday, August 24, announced that its Scholarship and Fellowship Program awarded full-tuition scholarships and stipends to 130 college juniors and graduate students studying math, engineering and science, bringing the total number of current participants in the program to nearly 300. The DHS Scholarship and Fellowship Program is designed to support, stimulate, and tap into the intellectual capital in academia to address current and future homeland security challenges, while at the same time educating and inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers dedicated to improving homeland security. The Homeland Security Scholarship and Fellowship program is coordinated for the DHS Science and Technology directorate by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, a Department of Energy facility focusing on scientific initiatives and educational programs.

For information about the Homeland Security Scholarship and Fellowship Program or to apply, visit <http://www.orau.gov/dhsed>

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4753>

[[Return to top](#)]

Emergency Services Sector

28. *August 25, Brownwood Bulletin (TX)* — Warning sirens to be replaced with emergency phone system in Texas. Brownwood City, TX, decided Tuesday, August 23, to install a system called CodeRed, which is an Internet-based, high-speed emergency telephone calling system that will deliver customized, pre-recorded messages to homes and businesses at a rate of up to 60,000 calls per hour. CodeRed will replace the city's 11 sirens, which cost more than \$12,000

a year to maintain and operate. Using this new system, messages can be delivered to the entire city, or to specific areas. Messages can tell residents about a number of topics from weather issues to water main breaks, street closures and even messages telling employees to stay home because of icy roads.

Source: <http://www.brownwoodbulletin.com/articles/2005/08/24/news/news01.txt>

29. *August 25, Department of Homeland Security* — **New smart card system to coordinate first responders in the National Capital Region.** The National Capital Region (NCR) is leading the nation in identifying first responders with a new smart card credentialing effort. The First Responder Partnership Initiative (FRPI) is designed as a model for other regions to enhance cooperation and efficiency between state and local first responders and their federal counterparts. “We are excited to launch an effort that will help the country better coordinate its most valuable resources — its people — during an incident,” said Tom Lockwood, Director of the Department of Homeland Security’s Office of National Capital Region Coordination. “I encourage state and local governments to adopt the interoperable technology to support mutual aid across jurisdictional lines.” The architecture of the card, which uses the FIPS 201 and 14443 contactless standards, will identify first responders and their qualification(s) at the site of an incident, so they may move rapidly into, out of, and within an area in a trusted and secure manner. The card will be recognized across all NCR federal, state, and local multi-jurisdictions.

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4762>

30. *August 24, The Wilson Daily (NC)* — **Disaster drill staged in North Carolina.** A mock drill held Tuesday, August 23, featured a hostage standoff between a homegrown terrorist and law enforcement near Stantonsburg, NC, and resulted in multiple “exposures” to pesticides and a genetically altered strain of salmonella. The exercise started Friday, August 19, when several people came to the Health Department complaining of stomach problems. Health officials determined they had eaten at a banquet for county employees catered by a local restaurant. On Monday, August 22, test results came back that showed the people were infected with salmonella. The dynamics of the problem changed significantly when it was determined the strain of salmonella had been genetically altered. This information indicated this was not an accident — but a terrorist event. The Health Department played a leading role in the exercise since it was the first agency involved. “Minor things came up, such as some communications problems...But overall, it worked very well,” said Wilson County, NC, Emergency Management director Gordon Deno. Agencies involved included the Wilson County Health Department, Wilson County Sheriff’s Office, Emergency Medical Services, Wilson Police Department, Wilson Medical Center, Stantonsburg Police Department, Stantonsburg–Moyton and Sanoca volunteer fire departments and volunteer rescue squads throughout the county.

Source: http://www.wilsondaily.com/Wil_region/Local_News/35132205981_2548.php

31. *August 24, Mobile Radio Technology* — **National Institute of Standards and Technology gives first responders an inside look at radio wave behavior.** Engineers from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) have spent the last two years radio mapping large buildings and placing transmitters in old buildings before their implosion to study how waves behave inside buildings — both intact and demolished. The idea is to help improve communications capabilities of first responders, who often lose signals in shielded or complex environments such as the basements and elevator shafts of buildings. So far, the team has found

that radio waves behave in unpredictable ways inside buildings, and any small change to a building, such as Mylar window coverings, can dramatically change propagation characteristics of radio waves. NIST researchers have generated a large set of public-domain data on differences in signal reception at emergency communications frequencies for different types of building environments. They hope the information can begin to improve the communication capabilities of first responders and even change the way buildings are constructed. In addition, the researchers hope to develop reliable, cost-effective tools that can be retrofitted to existing radio systems to assist emergency personnel in locating and perhaps communicating with rescuers and other survivors trapped in a building.

Source: http://mrtmag.com/news/nist_radio_waves_082405/

32. *August 24, Valencia County News–Bulletin (NM)* — **First responders react to weapons-of-mass-destruction scenario in New Mexico.** A terrorism drill involving weapons-of-mass-destruction (WMD) took place in Belen, NM, Tuesday morning, August 23. In the scenario, a plane was stolen from Belen Alexander Municipal Airport by people intending to use it to disseminate anthrax or another chemical threat; the hangar where the plane was stored was rigged with trip lines set to release chemical agents and possibly trigger explosives. After rescue personnel attended to an employee who became sick, the area of the hangar was evacuated and a team from the National Guard was called in to determine what kind of chemicals were in the area. The job facing Belen law enforcement officers and first responders in the drill was to safely determine what threats might be in place, take care of anyone who had been injured already, set up a command post and communicate with state and federal agencies. Deputy Commander Captain Xavier Miller said exercises in places like Belen are very beneficial to his team because it helps heighten awareness. City of Belen Emergency Management Officer Manny Garcia said the drill went "very well"; law enforcement officials are in the process of analyzing what will need to be improved upon in the future.

Source: <http://www.news-bulletin.com/news/53698-08-24-05.html>

33. *August 24, WTOC 11 (GA)* — **Firefighters, Georgia college team up for training.** Savannah, GA, firefighters are learning new ways to keep the city's buildings safe with the help of the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). SCAD's architecture students teamed up with firefighters to create scale models of many of the city's buildings. Each model will sit on a platform that allows synthetic smoke to come through. Firefighters will use those models and computer-generated fire training scenarios to find the best way to fight fire. "The building construction and the characteristics change the way we do business and fight a fire," said Savannah Fire training chief Tim Sendelbach. "In this particular case, we can point out specific hazards for people to look at." Savannah firefighters say police and emergency disaster teams can use the models as well.

Source: <http://www.wtoctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=3762909&nav=0qq6dic N>

[[Return to top](#)]

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

34. *August 25, The Associated Press* — **Internet phone providers may cut off customers.** Providers of Internet-based phone services may be forced next week to cut off tens of thousands of customers who haven't formally acknowledged that they understand the problems

they may encounter dialing 911 in an emergency. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) had set the Monday, August 29, deadline as an interim safeguard while providers of Internet calling, also known as “VoIP” for Voice over Internet Protocol, rush to comply with an FCC order requiring full emergency 911 capabilities by late November. The FCC issued its order in May after a series of highly publicized incidents in which VoIP users were unable to connect with a live emergency dispatch operator when calling 911. Vonage, AT&T, and other carriers have indicated that they plan to comply with the FCC deadline to disconnect customers. But Time Warner Cable, the biggest VoIP provider in the cable TV industry with more than 600,000 users, said in its FCC filing that all customers have already been adequately informed about the risk of losing 911 service in a power outage—the primary issue for cable-based VoIP services—and that all have already acknowledged that risk.

Source: <http://www.networkingpipeline.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleId=170100161>

- 35. August 24, Security Focus — HAURI Anti-Virus ACE archive handling remote buffer overflow vulnerability.** HAURI Anti-Virus is affected by a remote buffer overflow vulnerability when handling ACE archives. An attacker can exploit this issue by crafting a malicious ACE archive containing a specially crafted file name and sending this archive to a vulnerable computer. The attacker may exploit this vulnerability to gain unauthorized remote access in the context of the superuser. The vendor has released patches to address this issue in ViRobot Linux Server 2.0. Users running ViRobot Expert 4.0 and ViRobot Advanced Server can upgrade to vrazmain.dll version 5.8.22.137 through the online update functionality of the application. HAURI LiveCall users can upgrade to vrazmain.dll version 5.8.22.137 through the LiveCall Website.

Hauri Patch ViRobot Unix/Linux Server Security Vulnerability Patch

http://www.globalhauri.com/html/download/down_unixpatch.html

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14647/solution>

- 36. August 24, FrSIRT — WebCalendar "includedir" remote PHP file inclusion vulnerability.** A vulnerability was identified in WebCalendar, which may be exploited by attackers to compromise a vulnerable web server. This flaw is due to an input validation error in the "send_reminders.php" script when processing a specially crafted "includedir" parameter, which may be exploited by remote attackers to include malicious files and execute arbitrary commands with the privileges of the web server. WebCalendar prior to version 1.0.1 is affected.

Users should upgrade to WebCalendar version 1.0.1:

<http://www.k5n.us/webcalendar.php?topic=Download>

Source: <http://www.frsirt.com/english/advisories/2005/1513>

- 37. August 24, Security Focus — MPlayer audio header buffer overflow vulnerability.** A buffer overflow vulnerability affects MPlayer. This issue is due to a failure of the application to properly validate the length of user-supplied strings prior to copying them into static process buffers. The problem presents itself when the affected application attempts to process audio streams that contain overly large values in their header. An attacker may exploit this issue to execute arbitrary code with the privileges of the user that activated the vulnerable application. This may facilitate unauthorized access or privilege escalation. Security Focus is not currently aware of any vendor-supplied patches for this issue.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14652/info>

38. *August 24, Security Focus* — **Home Ftp Server multiple vulnerabilities.** Home Ftp Server is affected by multiple vulnerabilities. These issues can allow local attackers to disclose sensitive information and remote attackers to carry out directory traversal attacks. Home Ftp Server 1.0.7 b45 is reported to be vulnerable. Other versions may be affected as well. Security Focus is not currently aware of any vendor-supplied patches for this issue.
Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14653/info>
39. *August 24, Secunia* — **Ventrilo Server Denial of Service vulnerability.** There is a vulnerability in Ventrilo Server, which can be exploited by malicious people to cause a DoS (Denial of Service). The vulnerability is caused due to an error in handling certain malformed status query packets. This can be exploited to crash the server by sending a specially crafted status query packet to port 3784/udp. The vulnerability has been confirmed in version 2.3.0 and has also been reported in versions 2.1.2 through 2.3.0.
Source: <http://secunia.com/advisories/16551/>
40. *August 23, Sun microsystems* — **Security vulnerability in Solaris 10 "DHCP" clients.** A security vulnerability in the "/lib/svc/method/net-svc" script may allow a remote privileged user the ability to execute arbitrary code with "root" privileges on a "DHCP" client system if the remote user has access to a system within the network or subnet which is used by the host for "DHCP" requests. This issue can occur in the following releases: SPARC Platform Solaris 10 without patch 119593-01, and x86 Platform Solaris 10 without patch 119594-01. This issue is addressed in SPARC Platform Solaris 10 with patch 119593-01 or later, and x86 Platform Solaris 10 with patch 119594-01 or later.
Source: <http://sunsolve.sun.com/search/document.do?assetkey=1-26-101 897-1>

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US-CERT is aware of multiple vulnerabilities in Computer Associates Message Queuing (CAM / CAFT) software. US-CERT is not aware of any public exploits at this time. If exploited, these vulnerabilities could allow a remote attacker to:

- * Execute arbitrary code on a vulnerable machine with elevated privileges
- * Execute arbitrary commands with elevated privileges
- * Cause a Denial of Service (DoS) condition

Although there is limited information concerning these vulnerabilities, US-CERT encourages users to upgrade or install patches, as recommended by the Computer Associates Security Notice.

* * * US-CERT is observing an increase in scanning activity targeting ports 19878 and 3382. It's unknown what is motivating the increase in scanning activity. You may wish to monitor activity taking place on these ports on your networks.* * *

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (---), 445 (microsoft-ds), 6881 (bittorrent), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 135 (epmap), 139 (netbios-ssn), 45648 (---), 26777 (---), 4004 (pxc-roid), 6346 (gnutella-svc) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
----------------------------	---

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[[Return to top](#)]

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

General Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

[DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:

Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983-3644.

Subscription and Distribution Information:

Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983-3644 for more information.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.